



1 John

An Exegetical Series

Worldview Formulation of 1 John Chapter 1



Theological Summary of 1 John Chapter 1

The Apostle John, as a credible eyewitness and faithful witness to Jesus Christ and the truth of His gospel, exhorts believers reckon this foundational reality: God is light—perfectly holy, morally pure, and without darkness.

Therefore, those who claim fellowship with Him must walk in the light, not by denying the presence of sin, but by confessing it openly before God. Through honest confession of sin, believers enjoy the fullness of fellowship with God who is gracious, righteous, and faithful to forgive and cleanse from unrighteousness.

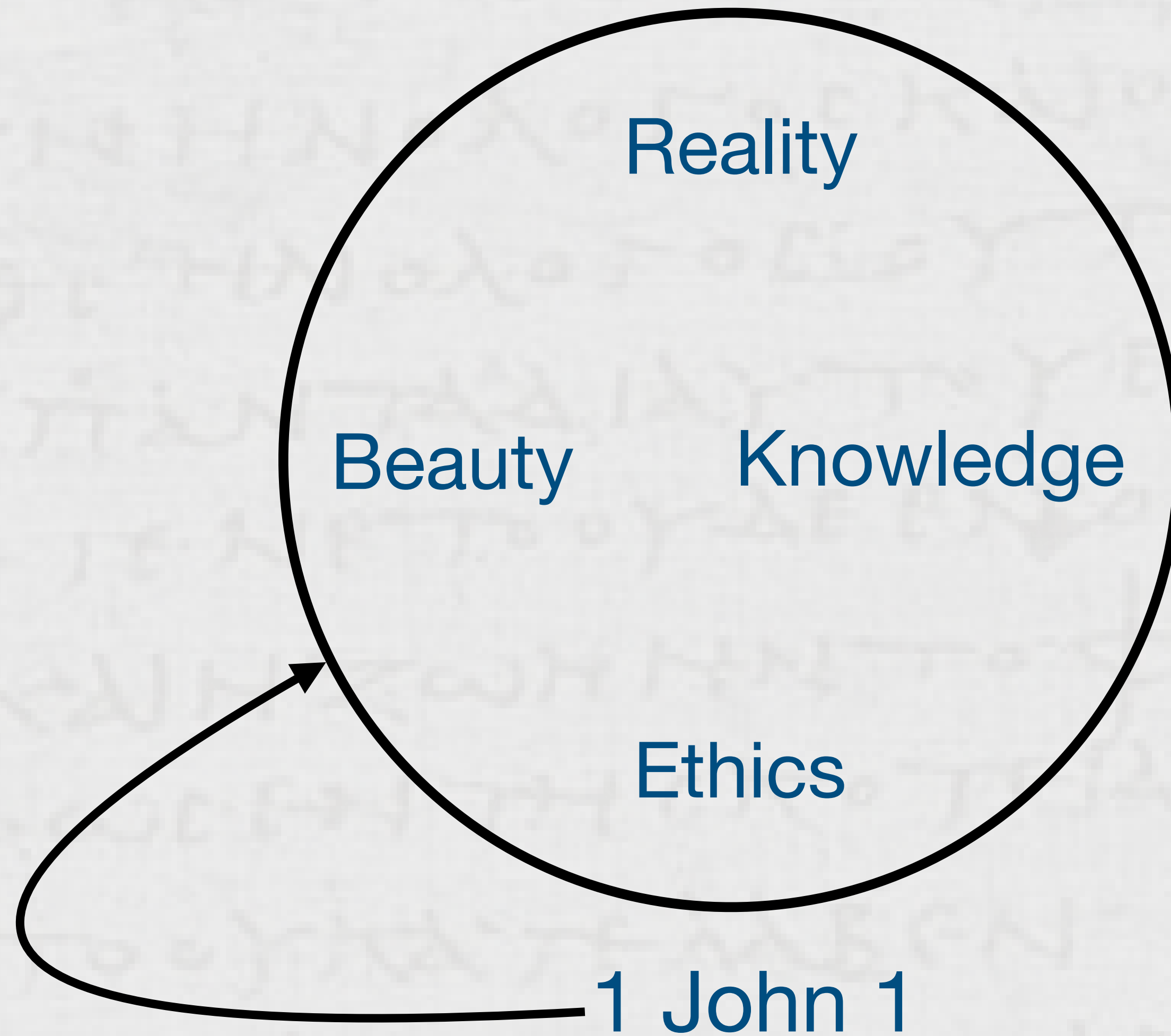
Worldview Formulation

Now, we want to take these initial, and beautiful, truths and begin to build our worldview both by the *theological teaching* of and *philosophical implications* within 1 John Chapter 1

It is essentially building “What we ought to believe and how we ought to live.”

- Steven Wellum, 4 Things You Can't Do Without Systematic Theology, *The Gospel Coalition*, Bible & Theology, December 26, 2017

Building a Worldview



1 John 1

Reality — Metaphysics — In 1 John 1

God is not distant but Reveals Himself — Who He is and What He Does — This is *The Doctrine of Revelation*

▶ References:

▶ 1 John 1:1-4

- Heard, seen, touched — revealed!
- Made manifest (ESV rendering)
- “We are writing these things” (v 4)
- “This is the message...” (v 5)

Reality — Metaphysics — In 1 John 1

God is not distant but Reveals Himself—Who He is and What He Does — This is *The Doctrine of Revelation*

- In other words, as Christians, we do not simply believe there is a “higher power” that is “out there”
- We believe this God exists because he has made himself known to us through Jesus Christ and the message he gave to be shared to all people

Reality — Metaphysics — In 1 John 1

God's Eternal, Self-Sufficient Existence:

- ▶ References:

- ▶ 1 John 1:1-2 (What *was* from the beginning)
- ▶ 1 John 1:5 (God *is* light — absolutely no darkness)
- ▶ 1 John 1:7 (God is *in* the light and purifies sin)
- ▶ 1 John 1:9-10 (Stands above sin and darkness; His Word is authoritative and final)

Reality — Metaphysics — In 1 John 1

God is the eternal, self-sufficient, perfect being in Himself:

- Because God is the one who “was” (eternal even before the past, present, future), he is sufficient unto himself by sustaining his own existence by his own being — God doesn’t need someone to make him the God who is and was!
- God is the standard of truth (he reveals truth only!) and morality — God is light for he defines sin and purity!

Knowledge—Epistemology—In 1 John 1

God not only reveals himself, but provides us knowledge of true things— who he is, who we are, what good and evil are

▶ References:

- ▶ 1 John 1:1-2 (God is eternal—we are not; God is not physical but manifested physically)
- ▶ 1 John 1:5-6 (God is not sinful—but we are!)
- ▶ 1 John 1:7 (God provides a way out of darkness)
- ▶ 1 John 1:9 (God is the righteous judge)

Ethics – Moral Standard – In 1 John 1

God *is* light and *in* the light — his character and nature are the standard for moral, objective moral truth

▶ References:

- ▶ 1 John 1:2 (the Word of Life provides...life!)
- ▶ 1 John 1:3-4 (Joy is found in fellowship with God)
- ▶ 1 John 1:6-7 (Sin is reality and contrary to the light — God himself!)
- ▶ 1 John 1:10 (God is not a liar, but man is!)

Beauty—Axiology—In 1 John 1

The life of truth, goodness, and beauty is found in reconciliation with God through the cleansing of sin by Jesus Christ, and in the continual confession of sin whereby believers enjoy unhindered fellowship with God, not for renewed “legal” or “judicial” forgiveness, but for restored communion with him by his grace

- ▶ **References:**

- ▶ 1 John 1:7

- ▶ 1 John 1:9

Christology In 1 John 1

The Doctrine of Christ—specifically his two natures are clearly alluded to, as well as his mission and his mediation

- ▶ **References:**

- ▶ 1 John 1:1-4
- ▶ 1 John 1:7

The Doctrine of Christ—Christology—will be built upon even further and rightly so; not only is Jesus clearly said to be God, but he clearly provides forgiveness of sin by cleansing through his blood and thus fellowship with God

Pneumatology In 1 John 1

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology) is alluded to when considering all of John's writings—specifically the indwelling of believers and conviction of sin because the Spirit guides us into all God's truth

- ▶ Reference:

- ▶ 1 John 1:8 (The *truth* is not *in* us)

This allusion can be easily missed because the focus is on Father and the Son, yet Jesus said the Spirit is truth and the guide into truth (John 16:13—see also, John 14:17, 26; 15:26)

Apologetics In 1 John 1

The Impossibility of the Contrary (*The Transcendental Argument/Proof of God's Existence*) = Without God, you cannot justify any belief about reality, knowledge, ethics, and beauty.

(E.g., “God is Light,”) God is both the moral standard in the truth’s He speaks and in His own existence—He *is* truth itself because He *is* light. Because of this, we have a *grounding* for moral objective truth that is beyond mere human opinion (all other systems of ethical philosophy)

God is Light; Impossibility of the Contrary

As Christians, we do not begin our understanding of ethics with man, society, or philosophy; we begin with God. Since God is the eternal and perfect standard of truth, goodness, and holiness, only he can provide a meaningful foundation for morality. Without God, there is no ultimate basis for calling anything truly good or evil.

Morality only has true meaning if it is grounded in the character of God. Without God, right and wrong become matters of human opinion rather than objective truth.

Worldview Shifts Toward Truth

The reality is this: God exists, and His authoritative Word both establishes and justifies all truth—who He is, who we are, what good and evil are, what the good life is and is not, and how He works within the reality He has made

We do not believe in a God simply because we “made it up as we went” or we blended beliefs, but a real God, who is God of all, is *there* and He has revealed Himself in such a way that we cannot ignore the reality of it—His Word has given us a comprehensive understanding of our reality

How Should We Respond?

Confidence and Worship!

- > Our “Religious” conceptions are not based upon ourselves nor on the basis of human authors alone but from God’s revelation of Himself! God has spoken, and we should be in awe of this!
- > We should worship because this God who is above all willingly communicated with sinful, fallen people in order to have fellowship with them by cleansing them of sin!



1 John

An Exegetical Series

Worldview Formulation of 1 John Chapter 1

